A Woodland Voice.

Come out where the birds are singing,
  Let the sunshine enter your heart.
Find the first flowers a-blooming;
  Forget life's darker part;
Forget the past and the future,
  Push sorrow out of sight;
Today your only duty
  Is to live and grow in the light.

Taste the glorious joy of breathing
  This fresh woods-scented breeze!
Run, laugh, and join your singing
  To the whispering of the trees.
Let every sense give gladness;
  Feel your bounding pulse keep time
With the heart of the throbbing forest,
  The river's flowing rhyme.

Today, today is yours—
  Its sunlight and its shade,
Its freedom on the hill-top
  Its quiet in the shade.
Come out, come out to nature,
  And join her in her play.
Within your heart her laughter
  Will ripple on, alway!
—[Mary T. Earle, in Boston Transcript.

An Optical Experiment.

BY GEORGE WALDO BROWNE.

"What! believe in eye transplantation?" I exclaimed, as the subject was broached to me by Dr. Callahan, the well-known specialist of diseases and infirmities of the optical organs, one evening as I was enjoying a social chat with him. My friend, it may be needless for me to say, is a noted scientist as well as a popular physician in New York. His veracity is above question, and I should be the last to doubt his word.

"Why not?" he asked with a quizzical expression upon his handsome features. "There have been successful cases of skin grafting and of hair transplanting. In fact, nearly all other parts of the human system have been changed and transformed at will."

"But has it been done?"

"Most assuredly. Professor Z—— of Paris has demonstrated it by actual experience."

"So the sight was as good as the original eye?"

"Ay, better, for the original orbs were not perfect. But haven't I ever told you of a little experience I had in that direction? No? Well, help yourself to those cigars; they are a prime article imported by myself. And while you smoke I will amuse you with my little story of combined science and romance.

"Little over two years ago, a lady called at my office, saying she wished to consult me on account of her daughter who was afflicted with a strange malady. Repeating her words she said:

"'About a year ago she began to complain of a pain in her right eye, and as this grew worse we became so alarmed that we consulted our family physician, who, upon examination, denied that he could discover any trouble with the organ. Adele, that is my daughter's name, still persisted that there was something growing on the eye, and besides being painful she was slowly losing sight. We grew more anxious to consult in turn at least a dozen doctors, some of them specialists of diseases of the eye, and every one of them declared that the eye was as well the other, and that she was suffering from a singular illusion. At last I could not help believing the physicians, and I tried to reason her out of the strange hallucination. But nothing that can be said will overcome her belief. I am nearly distracted for I am sure that she will not long survive the fearful strain she is undergoing. She has heard of you and knows that you are a specialist, in good repute, of diseases of the eye. Now I wish for you to make an examination and when you have added your decision to all the others I hope she will be convinced. Oh, doctor! if you know of any way to lift this cloud from her mind, you will not only save a beautiful life, but end this misery of myself and friends.'

"I was very much impressed with the pathos of Mrs. Averill's story and promised to call the next day at her house to see if I could save her daughter from a fate worse than death.

"I found Miss Averill a most interesting patient, and my sympathies were enlisted at once in her behalf. Just entering upon the morning of womanhood, she was tall and 'divinely fair,' as the poets express it, though I could see that the great mental strain at work upon her brain was fast overpowering her.

"Her mother met me in the hall, urging me to do my best to cure her daughter of the fallacy of her belief, and I, of course, promised to do my best.

"I talked with Miss Averill several minutes, to find her mind well balanced except, perhaps, upon that one subject.

"I was surprised at the coolness with which she submitted to an examination, which I made with extreme deliberation, she describing to me very minutely the pain arising from the suffering eye, and even explaining to me the exact location of the 'spot.'

"Mrs. Averill was watching me anxiously; and I will confess that there was a huskiness in my voice when I said at last:

"'My dear madam, I am sorry to be forced to say as much, but your daughter has described her case as faithfully as I could have done. She has a painful and I fear fatal disease developing in her right eye.'

"'No—no! there can be no trouble with her eye. All the doctors have said so.'

"'But doctors err as well as other human beings sometimes. And the case may not have been so well developed then.'

"I thought for a time Mrs. Averill would swoon, but gradually she grew calmer, when her daughter, who had shown no signs of weakness, said:

"'You see I was right, mother. Doctor Callahan is a physician of most acute skill, and he is not afraid to speak his thoughts. I feel better, even now, and it is best for you to know the worst.'

"Mrs. Averill seemed unable to comprehend the startling fact, and I called her to my side, saying:

"'If you will stand behind my chair, and look over my shoulder when I throw the light from the opthalmoscope through this lens I hold in my left hand upon the cornea, you can look into the anterior chamber of the eye, and a little to the left of the optic disc you can see a tumor with large veins radiating in all directions. That class of tumors was first pointed out to me by Dr. Williams of Boston; afterward by Von Graff of Vienna, and they have always thus far proved to be cancers of the kind called scirrhous. They are exceedingly painful and unless removed always fatal.

"Mrs. Averill at this point burst into a flood of tears, while her daughter, as I had expected, remained outwardly calm, even trying to assuage her mother's grief.

"'It is better to know the worst, dear mother. And,' as she spoke a hopeful glance came into her countenance, 'perhaps Dr. Callahan can cure it.'

"'Oh, doctor! can you—save my child?' implored her mother.

"I did not dare tell them at once the plan I had concluded to follow; but I spoke encouragingly, and asked for a little time to consider the matter.

"I did not prolong their suspense longer than I could help; and at last, broaching the subject as carefully as possible, I suggested an eye transplantation.

"As I had anticipated Miss Averill immediately acquiesced in my mode of treatment, and as far as I could see there was not a tremor about her. Her confidence in my ability seemed unbounded.

"At my request the matter was kept strictly private, as I knew an affair of that kind would create endless talk which would do injury to my purpose.

"I am free to confess to you that when the momentous occasion came, I was more nervous than my patient, who was bearing up with remarkable fortitude.

"Only her mother and a particular assistant of mine were present, and we lost no time in preparing for the operation.

"I had told Miss Averill that I had selected a rabbit's eye to take the place of her optic, assuring her the change would never be noticed, and that her sight would be perfect.

"When the preliminaries had been arranged, I put the patient under the influence of ether and performed the delicate task I had assigned myself quickly and successfully so that when she recovered her consciousness, I said with assurance.

"Rejoice with me, Miss Averill, you have now an eye as good as the other and I have performed the crowning feat of my life. I presume it feels sore now, but keep the bandage on for a while and moisten with this liquid. I will change the bandage for you daily.

"I tell you I never saw a happier couple than that mother and daughter. They overwhelmed me with thanks and no price that I could ask would be too great. My faith, as I think of it now, my price was pretty high."

"'Do you object to telling?"

"Certainly not. I asked for her own dear self and got her, too."

"And the eye is as good as the other?" I asked incredulously.

"Certainly; you couldn't tell them apart. But why should you, for I don't mind telling you that they are the identical twain given her by nature. You see her's was a desperate case of one of those strange fantasies which sometimes enter the mind of even the strongest. I am sure my course of treatment was all that could have saved her. Of course I let her mother into the secret as soon as I thought best, and it had her hearty support. Though this does not substantiate my theory, I am sure that eye transplantation can be successfully done."—[Yankee Blade.

Growth of Our Settled Area.

The extent to which the settled area of the country is constantly growing may be very closely estimated by the record of Government land sales. The facts in this connection are striking, even if few people are apt to take them into consideration. Every year the United States disposes of from ten to twenty million acres of its public lands to purchasers, who, in a majority of cases, are actual settlers. Indeed, about half of the transactions are made under what are called the Homestead provisions of the public land laws. This requires actual residence by the purchaser on the tracts acquired, and in a great majority of cases is the work of bona fide settlers. When it is recalled that ten million acres of land is double the area of Massachusetts and is one-third the extent of New York, it can be seen how large an addition is yearly made to the production capacity of the whole country.

In the course of the ten years which ended in 1890 the Government has disposed of no less than one hundred and fifty million acres of land, an area nearly as large as the whole of the thirteen original States. It must not be forgotten, either, that this imposing total does not include the land sales of the State of Texas, which alone among the States of the West retains the title to the public lands within its limits. And if the record of land sales by the various railroad companies, which the Government has endowed with portions of the public lands, are included in the total, it is altogether probable that a million acres or more would be added to the records for each year and some twenty-five million acres to the aggregate sales for the last ten years. When it is stated that in the past decade one hundred and seventy-five million acres have been brought under settlement and cultivation, we must imagine an extent of territory larger than Germany and double the size of tha British Islands.—[Once-A-Week.

Incubated Babies.

Some of the best New York hospitals employ incubators for undeveloped infants. The incubator looks like that used to hatch eggs, though it is larger. Hot-water pipes run beneath it, and two currents of warm air are conducted into the cage. The baby lies on an air pillow, at a temperature of about seventy-three degrees. The air, of course, is kept in constant circulation. A baby viewed a few weeks ago weighed at its birth about two pounds, and had presented a most uncompleted appearance, but under the influence of the heat looked like any other infant of the age of six weeks, only a trifle redder, perhaps, than children brought up under the usual conditions. In the same room with this baby were twelve others of about the same age, two in each cradle, all dressed precisely alike, and distinguished from each other by a bit of writing stuck to the gown. The mothers were in an opposite room, and the nurses reported that every day, when the children were bathed, there was the greatest excitement in the mothers' ward lest the babies got mixed. "Wouldn't each mother know her own child by instinct?" was asked. The nurse shrugged her shoulders, and replied: "The babies are all exactly alike, and all paupers, but each mother wants her own, and each one's own is the prettiest. It's the idea of getting another woman's baby they don't like."—[The Ledger.

Peculiar Cosmetics.

Tallow used to be the principal ingredient of the cosmetics used by the ladies of ancient Rome. A peculiar compound, guaranteed to render the complexion smoother than a looking glass, consisted of an equal quantity of barley and broad bean flour, bound with eggs, then allowed to dry and finely ground. To this powder were added some staghorns of the special kind which falls in the spring, together with a few narcissi onions, pounded in a mortar, then some gum and flour from the Tuscany wheat, with a good quantity of honey. This paste was applied on the face in a thick layer on going to bed.—[New York Commercial Advertiser.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

PRUNING FRUIT TREES LATE.

Whatever pruning of bearing trees is done ought to be finished while buds are dormant. This promotes vigorous growth, while the fruit bearing will prevent it from becoming too vigorous. But young trees, slow in coming into bearing, may sometimes be advantageously pruned after their leaves have started. It checks growth of wood, and if very severe may lessen vitality of the tree. But after bearing is established the tree may be made vigorous again by liberal manuring.—[Boston Cultivator.

GRASS SEED FOR A RECLAIMED SWAMP.

For such ground as this the following varieties have been found most suitable and satisfactory: Timothy, red top, fowl meadow, orchard, meadow fescue, yellow oat and perennial rye grass. Of each, five pounds per acre. To get a satisfactory growth of the grass the seeds should be thoroughly mixed, leaving out the timothy, which, being heavy, should be sown by itself last, to distribute it evenly. The land must be made fine and smooth, and after the seeds have been sown the surface should be lightly harrowed with a sloping-tooth harrow having thin teeth. If any clover is desired sow, last of all, five pounds each of alsike and white clovers. Such seeding affords the best of hay and excellent pasture. The seeds should be sown by themselves and without grain, as early in the spring as possible. The early sowing and the covering of the seed almost certainly secure a successful catch.—[New York Times.

TESTING SEEDS.

Many persons fail in their plantings from the imperfection of the seeds sown, though more often the failure to germinate is the fault of the gardener. If the soil is too cold when they are sown, or remains soaked with water for some days, their vitality is soon destroyed, or they may be covered with earth so deeply as to smother and rot. It requires good judgment and care to sow the very small seeds of the garden in the best manner, and there often is a large top in many varieties of grass seeds from covering them too deep. For small seeds the least amount of fine soil that will hide them from the light is the best. Whatever the cause of a failure to germinate may be, it is always desirable to know what it is, and this can be easily ascertained beforehand, so far as the seed itself is concerned.

A majority of seeds may be tested by sprinkling a small portion on a hot shovel or griddle, when if they pop readily and generally the rest may be sown with confidence that they will grow. If they remain immovable without cracking open until they burn up the lot from which they were taken should be rejected at once and destroyed. Another and with some sorts a still more satisfactory way is to put a few of each variety about which there is any doubt to the test of actual germination. Place a little finely pulverized rich soil in a shallow box for a seed bed and sprinkle a few seeds upon it and cover with a single thickness of paper. Keep the paper moistened and the box in a moderately warm place. If good they will soon sprout.—[New York World.

THE ART OF PULLING HEAVY LOADS.

As much importance is attached to training horses to pull heavy loads as there is in the development of speed. The values of these respective performances depends upon the breed to which the animal belongs and the uses for which he is intended. Success in either role depends very much upon the training. It very often occurs that a team of heavy horses refuses or are unable to start a big load that a much lighter team will pull with ease. It is all in the early education; the heavier horses refuse because they have not been properly trained in the art of pulling, and have been loaded beyond their strength in the beginning, the effect of which is to discourage making the attempt.

The greatest care, therefore, is required in training the young draft horse in the work to which his life is to be devoted and never to overtax his strength. It is far better to make an extra trip and thus divide the load, than to require the horse to move one that is beyond his strength or that demands extraordinary extremes, until he becomes familiar and accustomed to the line of work required of him. The subject is one that should engage the attention and study of state and county fairs. A class of prizes ought to be offered for heavy draft horses, the test to be actual performance in pulling the load, the standard being willingness to obey the word of command, steadiness and ability in proportion to the weight of the team. Such an inducement would stimulate action and result in more careful and thorough preparation of the heavy horse for the duties his special breeding renders him so competent and suitable to perform.—[Indiana Farmer.

MAKING A LAWN.

A lawn may be sown either in the fall or spring, but the primary requisite is the proper preparation of the ground. To be sightly and beautiful the surface must be smooth and the ground properly graded. Again, the soil must be of the best, and, if not naturally so, it ought to be made so by fertilizing it. Quite often it may be necessary to spread upon it better soil, brought from a more favored spot, and nothing should be omitted for bringing it into the productive condition of good garden soil. Not only ought a lawn have a surface of fertile soil, but all parts of the surface should be equally fertile. It is an unsightly lawn upon which the grass grows unequally in patches. Small grass plots can be more quickly established by sodding them than by sowing the seed, but for large plots the latter is the most common method, and when the ground is properly prepared a fine lawn can be made by thick seeding. The best grasses for a lawn are Kentucky blue grass, Poa pratensis, and red top, Agrostis vulgaris, in the proportions of two bushels of the former to one bushel of the latter for an acre of lawn. A quart of timothy and a handful or two of white clover are sometimes distributed in the mixture, but these are not especially necessary. As before said, there are two seasons for sowing—autumn and spring. Either is appropriate, and the choice is of secondary importance compared with the preparation of the land.

To get rid of weeds and clean the ground before laying it down in grass, Mr. Saunders, the Superintendent of Grounds at Washington, suggests the practice of planting it with early potatoes. These, if well cultivated, will soon cover the surface with their leaves and prevent the growth of weeds, and the operation of digging the crop and removing it tends to further pulverize and loosen the soil. The potatoes can be removed, the ground made smooth, and grass seed sown from the middle of August to the middle of September and the grasses will vegetate and cover the surface before severe frosts. A top dressing of thinly-sprinkled manure will protect the young plants during the winter, and a good thick-set lawn will be secured early in the following summer.

A frequent use of the lawn mower is absolutely necessary for the maintenance of a good lawn, and a winter top-dressing of well-rotted manure should be applied whenever the condition of the grass seems to require it.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

"A cow to the acre" is the best rule.

Now is a bad time to have damp floors to the hen house.

It takes five years from foaling to make a perfected horse.

It will pay well to have every horse's collar and harness specially fitted to him.

It is sinful waste to allow good milk stand in a filthy stable and absorb its foul odors.

Aerated milk is purer, sweeter, and keeps longer than that which has not been so treated.

An expert butter-taster can tell at once whether the water furnished cows is good or bad.

Get out your rearing coops and clean them thoroughly; any that are not good and wholesome burn

An excellent ointment for skin diseases of the horse is made of five grains of carbollic acid to one ounce of lard.

The market for really good horses is constantly improving, while that for tolerable ones is constantly getting poorer.

It is a mistake to breed from mares that are faulty in limb, wind or form; any defect of this kind is apt to be transmitted.

There are few deaf horses, and when a case of this kind occurrs it is almost always due to a blow from some brutal driver.

Gather the eggs daily. Wash any that may be dirty, before putting upon market. Till washed, keep from the clean ones.

Pine sawdust should never be used as a mulch. It has been known to kill pear trees and plants when plied around their roots.

FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

HANDKERCHIEF BAG.

Make a frame for the bag of celluloid, shaped in four points. Paint a vine of wild roses around the edge of the points, and cut it out, following the outline of the flowers. For the bottom, take a piece of rose-colored silk cut square, and join it to one edge of a straight, narrow piece that is long enough to go plain around the four sides of a square. Hem the other edge down and run a line around it so as to form a casing with a frill above it. Use narrow pink silk ribbon or cord for draw-strings. Fasten the bottom of the bag thus formed to the celluloid frame with glue, or by small stitches taken through the flowers at the extremities of the points. Instead of celluloid, cardboard covered with silk or velvet may be used, and the flowers embroidered upon it.—[American Farmer.

CARE OF WINTER CLOTHING.

The methods for destroying moths annually recommended are countless, yet many prove utterly powerless against the increase of the little pest. How often the housekeeper sighs heavily when, at the commencement of winter, she passes cloaks and furs in review, at the sight of the ravages in these garments. A hole in the overcoat or a bare spot in the fur trimming will render the costly article worthless. After a long trial of all sorts of preventives—pepper, insect powder, moth balls, etc.—a way was discovered which for several years has proved a complete protection against these insects.

A large wooden chest is used for storing all our winter clothing. The bottom is first covered with a layer of thick paper, on which is laid a number of linen rags soaked in kerosene oil and wrapped in paper. Over these is a second layer of paper. Next place in the chest a large linen sheet, ample enough to hang over the sides, and lay upon it the winter clothing carefully folded, first, of course, brushing it thoroughly that dust and moth eggs, if any have been laid, may be removed, otherwise all precautions would be in vain. Put the heaviest articles, such as men's overcoats, at the bottom, then the ladies' evening cloaks, then the lighter winter jackets and shawls, and scatter lumps of camphor thickly among the garments and also in the pockets and sleeves.

The fur collars and muffs, into which bits of camphor are also thrust, should be laid on the top. Lastly fold the sheet closely over the whole, tucking it in tightly at the corners. If not large enough to do this put a second one over the whole. Lock the chest and set it away in a cool place if possible till the next autumn. Some persons who objected to the use of kerosene lest it might soak through the sheet have substituted, with entire success, layers of tar paper placed below and above the sheet. This paper can also be laid between the garments, but care must be taken not to let it touch them as the color might stain the fabrics.—[Washington Star.

RECIPES.

Onion Sauce—Peel one dozen small onions, put them in a saucepan, cover with boiling water; add a teaspoonful of salt and boil half an hour, drain and pour through a sieve; make white sauce, add the onions, let boil up once and serve.

Wilted Dandelions—After standing in water over night, cut the leaves fine with a sharp knife. Put half a teacupful of cream over the fire, and when hot, add one well beaten egg and stir until it thickens, then season with salt and pepper, and add three tablespoonfuls of vinegar. Put the dandelions in this mixture and stir over the fire for fifteen minutes or until they are wilted and tender.

Green Tomato Pickle—Eight quarts green tomatoes sliced, one pint onions, sliced, one head cabbage, chopped, one small cup salt, eight peppers, chopped, two teaspoons ground cloves, two teaspoons ground cinnamon, two teaspoons black pepper, two teaspoons ginger, two teaspoons celery seed, three teaspoons white mustard seed, one-fourth pound sugar, one-half gallon vinegar, nasturtiums to taste. Put the salt on the onion, cabbage and tomatoes; let it stand over night and drain off the liquid. In the morning add the other ingredients and let the pickle boil fifteen minutes.

Missed His Calling.

Author—Mary, I have made a mistake in my calling. I'm not an author, but a born chemist.

Author's Wife—What makes you think that, Horace?

Author—Well, every book I write becomes a drug on the market.—[Puck.